Water Quality NewsFlash

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San Diego Storm Water – *Board wants more municipal dry-weather follow-up* – The San Diego Regional Board issued a Notice of Violation to the City of San Diego for failure to conduct follow-up investigations of dry weather monitoring and failure to prioritize industrial sites. NOV: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/misc/R9-2006-0046/R9-2006-0046.html Article: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20061005-9999-7m5violate.html

Endocrine Disruptors – *Congress takes interest in Potomac fish* – U.S. EPA told a Congressional committee that it would speed up its efforts to regulate endocrine disruptors. Endocrine disruptors include a wide variety of substances including pharmaceuticals and other currently unregulated substances that can affect the hormone balance in waterway organisms. The hearing was called after USGS issued a report finding egg-bearing male smallmouth bass in the Potomac River. The Potomac provides much of the drinking water for the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. The USGS has also found similar "intersex" fish in many other locations throughout the country. http://reform.house.gov/GovReform/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=51221

Lead – *Soil contamination threshold may decrease* - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is considering draft regulations to revise the *total threshold limit concentration* (TTLC) for lead. The intent is to update the threshold and improve the protection of the general population, including children, from direct exposure to lead containing wastes. Lead wastes are sometimes associated with highways due to the past use of lead as a gasoline additive and the current use of lead tire weights (see *NewsFlash 06-37*).

A waste whose total lead concentration exceeds the TTLC is considered hazardous and subject to the management and disposal requirements of the Health and Safety Code. Currently, the TTLC for lead is 1,000 mg/kg. Other criteria used independently to classify wastes as hazardous include the federal *toxicity characterization leaching procedure* (TCLP) and the State's *soluble threshold limit concentration* (STLC) - 5 mg/l for lead. The proposed lowering of the TTLC may mean that more wastes, including treatment residues from highway runoff, may be classified as hazardous. However, the STLC threshold rather than the TTLC is typically the limit that results in wastes being classified as hazardous.

In assessing cleanup goals for contaminated soils (as opposed to classifying wastes), the DTSC uses *Leadspread 7*, a program which predicts lead concentration in children and adults from an applied lead dose resulting from inputs from soil and dust, water, air and food. Leadspread 7 results in cleanup goals less than the current TTLC. The State's proposal is to use Leadspread 7 and default assumptions to set the new TTLC. The percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels has declined dramatically over the last several decades. Currently, most exposure is from house paint. Comments on the DTSC documents are due October 31. DTSC site: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/Lead_Threshold.cfm . More discussion: http://www.members.aol.com/annejlee/swnews99.pdf

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins*. Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm